

## ***SECCS June 2005 10<sup>th</sup> Edition***

The State Early Childhood Comprehensive Steering Committee met on Monday, May 23, 2005 in Sacramento to continue work on the Strategic Plan. The Committee finalized six goals:

1. To create statewide momentum and support for integrating early childhood comprehensive services in California
2. To ensure that coordinated and integrated prevention, early identification and intervention services are available to all children prenatal to five years and their families
3. To ensure that policy makers and service providers have multi-disciplinary training in order to delivery high quality, integrated services to children and families
4. To maximize funds that are directed toward services for children and families
5. To collect and analyze data in order to ensure optimal care for children and families
6. To ensure that the strengths of families are maximized and they are involved in decision making.

Objectives and activities were discussed and edited. The Steering Committee directed staff to share the Goals, Objectives and activities with parents, service providers and policy makers throughout the state. In the next 3 months, we would like to reach as many parts of California and as many interest groups, as possible. If you have a group that is meeting and is interested in hearing a presentation on SECCS and contributing to the final plan, please contact Wendy Wayne, Project Coordinator at 661 204-8840 to schedule a discussion.

- THIS MONTH, THE EXCITING PROJECT TO HIGHLIGHT, IS THE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR LEARNING (NFL) INITIATIVE TAKING PLACE IN VENTURA, CALIFORNIA. NFLS ARE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES, MADE UP OF PARENTS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, EDUCATORS, BUSINESSES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS COMING TOGETHER TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE SERVICES THAT WILL HELP ENSURE THAT THEIR CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 11 NFLS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY BRINGING SERVICES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES. NFLS CONNECT CHILDREN AGES 0 – 5 AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH A VARIETY OF RESOURCES SUCH AS HEALTH SERVICES, PARENT EDUCATION, AND FAMILY LITERACY. NFLS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH OPENING PRESCHOOLS, PROVIDING PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND OFFERING SUMMER PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS. NFLS HAVE ESTABLISHED OVER 20 FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

- THE OJAI VALLEY NFL SPONSORS A TV-FREE OJAI DURING NATIONAL TV TURN-OFF WEEK – WHICH GIVES FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN OFF THE TELEVISION AND COMPUTER AND CHECK OUT ALL THAT THE VALLEY HAS TO OFFER. THE COMMUNITY SPONSORS FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN – STORYTELLING, CRAFTS, OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, MUSIC, AND PICNICS.

- 211 LAUNCHED IN VENTURA: 211 IS AN EASY TO REMEMBER TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. 211 IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO OVER 108 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES IN 31 STATES. 37% OF THE US POPULATION [WWW.211.ORG](http://www.211.org) CALIFORNIA'S FIRST 2-1-1 SERVICES LAUNCHED FEBRUARY 11, 2005 IN VENTURA COUNTY. BY THE END OF 2005, IT IS PROJECTED THAT 2-1-1 WILL BE AVAILABLE TO 55% OF CALIFORNIANS IN 7 COUNTIES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VENTURA'S PROGRAMS, CONTACT CLAUDIA HARRISON AT  
[CHARRISON@FIRST5VENTURA.ORG](mailto:CHARRISON@FIRST5VENTURA.ORG)

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email [wewayne@kern.org](mailto:wewayne@kern.org) or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840. Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccs/seccsfacts.htm>